

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.     An image forming device comprising:  
 2           an image engine configured to use a consumable to form a hard image;  
 3     and  
 4           processing circuitry coupled with the image engine and configured to:  
 5           perform prediction operations with respect to the consumable to  
 6     predict a likelihood that an image job will be imaged;  
 7           receive a change of use indication with respect to the consumable;  
 8     and  
 9           modify the prediction operations responsive to the change of use.

1           2.     The device of claim 1 further comprising a memory configured to  
 2     store predictive data regarding usage of the consumable responsive to the  
 3     formation of hard images, and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to  
 4     access the predictive data to perform the prediction operations.

1           3.     The device of claim 2 wherein the processing circuitry is  
 2     configured to reset the predictive data to modify the prediction operations, and  
 3     wherein the memory is configured to store subsequent predictive data after the  
 4     resetting, and the processing circuitry is configured to use the subsequent  
 5     predictive data after the resetting to perform subsequent prediction operations after  
 6     the resetting.

1           4.     The device of claim 2 wherein the processing circuitry is  
 2     configured to set a change of use warning associated with the predictive data to  
 3     modify the prediction operations.

1           5.     The device of claim 2 wherein the memory is located upon the  
 2     consumable.

1           6.     The device of claim 1 further comprising a memory configured to  
2 store historical data regarding usage of the consumable responsive to the formation  
3 of hard images, and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to use the  
4 historical data to perform the prediction operations and to maintain the historical  
5 data after the change of use.

1           7.     The device of claim 1 wherein the processing circuitry is  
2 configured to suspend the prediction operations to modify the prediction  
3 operations.

1           8.     The device of claim 7 wherein the processing circuitry is  
2 configured to establish confidence in the prediction operations after the suspension  
3 and to reenale the prediction operations after the establishment of confidence.

1           9.     The device of claim 1 wherein the processing circuitry is  
2 configured to verify the change of use indication responsive to receiving the change  
3 of use indication, and to modify the prediction operations responsive to the  
4 verification.

1           10.    A method of operating an image forming device configured to use  
2 a consumable to form a hard image, the method comprising:  
3           performing prediction operations with respect to a consumable to predict  
4 a likelihood that an image job will be imaged;  
5           indicating a change of use of the consumable; and  
6           modifying the prediction operations with respect to the consumable after  
7 the indicating the change of use.

1           11.    The method of claim 10 further comprising storing predictive data  
2 regarding usage of the consumable, and wherein the performing comprises  
3 performing the prediction operations using the predictive data.

1           12. The method of claim 11 wherein the modifying comprises resetting  
2 the predictive data, and further comprising acquiring subsequent predictive data  
3 after the resetting, and performing subsequent prediction operations using the  
4 predictive data acquired after the resetting.

1           13. The method of claim 11 wherein the modifying comprises setting  
2 a change of use warning indication associated with the predictive data.

1           14. The method of claim 11 wherein the storing comprises storing the  
2 predictive data upon a memory of the consumable.

1           15. The method of claim 10 further comprising storing historical data  
2 regarding usage of a consumable, and wherein the performing the prediction  
3 operations comprises performing using the historical data, and further comprising  
4 maintaining the historical data during the modifying.

1           16. The method of claim 10 wherein the modifying the prediction  
2 operations comprises suspending the prediction operations.

1           17. The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
2 establishing confidence in the prediction operations after the modifying;  
3 and  
4 reenabling the prediction operations with respect to the consumable after  
5 establishing confidence.

1           18. The method of claim 10 further comprising verifying the change  
2 of use of the consumable, and wherein the modifying is responsive to the verifying.

1           19. The method of claim 10 further comprising moving the  
2 consumable from a first image forming device to a second image forming device,  
3 and wherein the indicating is responsive to the moving.

1           20. A method of providing consumable information comprising:  
2           providing a consumable usable to form hard images;  
3           storing predictive data concerning usage of the consumable upon the  
4 consumable to enable prediction operations to predict a likelihood that an image job  
5 will be imaged using the consumable; and  
6           setting a warning indication upon the consumable and associated with  
7 the predictive data to indicate a change of use of the consumable and to warn a  
8 user of a suspect nature of the predictive data.

1           21. A method of operating printer configured to use a consumable to  
2 form hard images, the method comprising:  
3           printing a plurality of hard images;  
4           storing predictive data regarding usage of a consumable responsive to the  
5 printing, wherein the storing predictive data comprises storing upon a memory of  
6 the consumable;  
7           storing historical data regarding usage of the consumable responsive to  
8 the printing, wherein the storing historical data comprises storing upon the  
9 memory;  
10          performing prediction operations with respect to the consumable using  
11 the predictive data and the historical data to predict a likelihood that an image job  
12 will be imaged using the consumable;  
13          indicating a change of use of the consumable after the performing;  
14          verifying the change of use of the consumable after the indicating;  
15          resetting the predictive data after the verifying;  
16          maintaining the historical data during the resetting;  
17          acquiring subsequent predictive data after the resetting;  
18          establishing confidence in the prediction operations after the resetting;  
19          and  
20          performing subsequent prediction operations after the establishing  
21 confidence using the historical data and the subsequent predictive data.